

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claim 2 is amended, and claims 1 and 7-12 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Support for the amendment to claim 2 is found at, for example, paragraphs [0076] and [0134] of the specification and Figs. 14A-16B. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Phan in the January 10, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the specification. As discussed during the interview, the specification is amended as suggested by the Office Action to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

During the interview, the Examiner suggested amending the Abstract to be consistent with the subject matter of the pending claims. The Abstract is amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,369,473 to Baumeister et al. (Baumeister). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, claim 2 recites a method of producing bus bars comprising stamping out a conductive metal plate into a plurality of strips, the strips stamped out simultaneously by press molding, each strip having a tab, the tab having an L-shaped cross-section defined by a curved section and a distal end, and bending the plurality of strips in a thickness direction to obtain a plurality of rings, respectively, the rings being mutually different in diameter and having substantially a same center, the L-shaped tab of each of the rings being disposed such that the distal end of each tab is disposed substantially at a same distance from the center.

These features are supported in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0076] and [0134] and shown in Figs. 14A-16B.

The Office Action asserts, that connection projections 28 of Baumeister correspond to the recited tabs. As shown in Fig. 4 of Baumeister, the connection projections 28 are not bent. Baumeister only discloses that the connection projections 28 may be bent so that they are received in the cutouts 29 after being connected to the stator coil ends 15. See col. 8, lines 20-22 of Baumeister. Thus, as agreed to during the interview, Baumeister does not teach or suggest a tab having an L-shaped cross-section defined by a curved section and a distal end, and that the L-shaped tab of each of the rings is disposed such that the distal end of each tab is disposed substantially at a same distance from the center of the rings, as recited in claim 2. Therefore, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the January 10, 2007 interview, claim 2 is patentable over Baumeister.

Claims 3 and 5 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 2, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

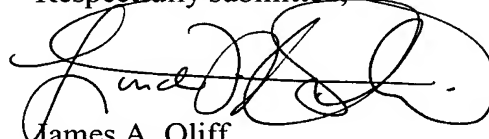
The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Baumeister. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Baumeister does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 2. Therefore, claims 4 and 6 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 2, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Amended Abstract

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